

STARVING CAB HORSES.

Owing to the Hard Times They Have Had to Go Without Working Nations.

No enthusiastic mass meetings or charity balls or dry goods sales have been held for the thousands of unemployed, crippled and half starved horses throughout the city. But their sufferings have been none the less severe because there is no powerful relief association to aid them. They cannot beg or steal, sleep in the city hall or eat soup at a free kitchen, and when they drop down in their tracks from hunger and cold the agent for the rendering company comes and hauls them away at the expense of the taxpayers. Last month the number so disposed of reached into the thousands. It was more than 25 per cent larger than at any corresponding period during the last decade.

Hard times came on, and the hundreds of expressmen, cabmen, podders and junk dealers were among the first to suffer. Their wages were curtailed, and they found it difficult to find enough food for their wives and children, to say nothing of paying rent and feeding their horses. If they sold out their "stands" on the corners where they had been stationed for years, every visible means of support would vanish, and their families would be compelled to depend on charity. Consequently they made their horses share the hunger of their children and are earning what they can.

Last week a cabman was hailed by a gentleman from the corner of Wabash avenue and Van Buren street. He wanted to be driven in a hurry to an address on North Clark street. The cabman cracked his whip, and the cab went rattling along the pavement. Just as they reached the incline leading to the Dearborn avenue bridge the vehicle suddenly stopped, and a moment later the horse fell. It could not be induced to rise and led where it had fallen. The cabman "plained, with tears in his eyes:

"I couldn't make enough money to feed him and my children both, and he had to get along on hay, and very little of fat. This morning I found him shivering in the shed, and I suppose cold and hunger have killed him."

It is an instance among the many. —Chicago Record.

ELECTRICITY'S NEW TRIUMPH.

A Practical Experience in Telegraphing and Telephoning Without Wires.

Genuine progress is being made toward the next great electrical triumph—telegraphing and telephoning without wires. The latest results of English experiments were described in a lecture before the Society of Arts on Thursday by W. H. Preece. A copper wire a half mile long was hung on poles on the coast near Cardiff, the earth completing the circuit. Six hundred yards away another wire 600 yards long and parallel with the original line was buried in the sand at the low water mark. More than three miles off on Flat Holme island another wire, also 600 yards and parallel, was laid down. An alternating current, controlled by a Morse key, was sent through the first wire. The signals were reproduced in the wire on the island and read by a pair of telephones. Messages were easily sent. Similar experiments at 5 1/2 miles were partly successful. The human voice was easily transmitted by the same means 1 1/2 miles.

Preece's critics contend that the results were due to conduction through the earth. He maintains that the results were due to electromagnetic induction of the rapidly alternating current in the primary circuit, throwing the surrounding ether into oscillations, and the energy was radiated in electric waves. These waves, he says, spread out like waves of light, and if they fall on conductors properly placed and sympathetically prepared are reconverted into an alternate current in the secondary circuit. Enthusiasts on the subject argue that we are fast getting on the track of the secret which, when secured, will enable us to communicate with other planets. —New York Sun's London Letter.

The Cost of Electricity.

The past 15 years have not witnessed expected progress in the cheapening of electricity. The reason is that invention has not as yet enabled more than a small percentage of the energy of coal to be turned to electricity.

A limit seems to have been fixed as to its cost when produced by coal, and any extensive introduction of it as a motive power in the near future seems to depend upon the utilization of water power. There is a wide field for its production by this means. There are hundreds of waterfalls now running to waste over the country that can and probably will be utilized in the production of electricity if the Niagara falls tunnel is a financial and commercial success. —Philadelphia Press.

Polish Persecutions.

Great indignation is felt among the sculptors and art dealers of Warsaw over a recent rescript of the police of that city. The guardians of the peace, in obedience to orders from St. Petersburg, visited all the stores and studios and destroyed all the busts of the Polish heroes, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Josef Poniatowski, which they could find. All sculptors in the city were obliged to send a written communication to the city officials promising not to make busts or statues of the two men in the future. This is one way Russia has adopted of trying to suppress the Polish national spirit. It is not probable, however, that it will accomplish its purpose. —Warsaw Letter.

Uncle Sam's Postoffice.

The American postoffice was put in operation in 1710. Last year there were 4,471 miles of mail routes and 67,119 postoffices. The revenues of the department were \$70,930,475. There were carried 3,800,000,000 letters. The world's annual mail comprises 8,000,000,000 letters and 5,000,000,000 papers. —Boston Traveller.

The Daily Advertiser, 75 cents a month. Delivered by Carrier.

THE CURIOUS LEMMING.

A Remarkable Animal Found in the Highlands of Norway and Sweden.

Very nearly related to the field mice are the lemmings, which are in their way among the most remarkable of animals. They are about five inches long, with very short tails. Dwelling in the highlands of the great central mountain chain of Norway and Sweden, they build their nests of straw lined with hair under stones and tussocks of grass. They are very pugnacious. When disturbed, instead of trying to escape, they sit upright, hissing and showing fight.

Certain cultivated districts of Sweden and Norway, where these creatures are ordinarily unknown, are occasionally, at intervals of from 5 to 35 years, overrun by armies of them, which steadily and slowly advance, always in the same direction, regardless of all obstacles, swimming across streams and even lakes several miles in breadth and committing great devastation. In turn they are pursued and harassed by crowds of beasts and birds of prey, such as bears, wolves, foxes, wildcats, weasels, eagles, hawks and owls. Even domestic animals—cattle, goats and reindeer—join in the hunt.

None of these migrant lemmings ever returns by the course from which it came. The onward march of the survivors never ceases until they reach the sea, into which they plunge, and swimming onward in the same direction as before perish in the waves.

As a matter of fact, the lemmings which perish in the sea are acting under the same blind impulse that led them previously to cross smaller pieces of water in safety. No survivors of the migrating hordes ever live to transmit their final and fatal experience to subsequent generations, and so this gigantic mistake is periodically repeated.

Abnormal increase of number and consequent necessity for food bring about the migration from the highlands to the lowlands, winding up in the ocean. The animals only travel at night and pause when they find sustenance plentiful. Exhaustion of the food supply compels them to proceed. Naturally they would not turn back on their tracks, the region behind being eaten bare. It is a curious fact that during these journeys they multiply enormously and even more rapidly than at home. Such a migration lasts from one to three years. —Pittsburg Dispatch.

Snake Charming.

The secrets of snake charming are much simpler than most people imagine. The snakes to be handled are gorged with food until they become drowsy, or else they are drugged so that their senses are dazed. Sometimes they are kept in iceboxes, and the cold puts them in a semitorpid condition. In either case the snakes are only half alive.

In handling the reptile the hand must always grasp it at certain places where the head can be guided and held from the body. This is the hardest thing to learn; but, like everything else, it comes with practice. By dint of dexterity and strength the snake is easily passed from one hand to the other and is allowed to coil about the body. The snake charmer, however, must be on the alert. When the snake becomes too lively, it is put back into the icebox.

In handling a reptile with the fangs in—which ought to be prohibited by law—one requires great strength, as the strain on the system during the performance is very great. The grasp and movements must be precise and accurate. There is no room for hesitancy or uncertainty. Most of the snakes handled, however, are harmless so far as poisoning is concerned. —Charles Robinson in Lippincott's.

Popular Stones For Jewelry.

Through all changes, when every stone seems to have its day, the diamond stands alone, incomparable. In these days stones are brought into prominence to meet the demand for variety, and such stones as the amethyst, the aquamarine, the chrysoberyl, the golden carnelian and many other stones known as semiprecious are so wonderfully cut and set as to greatly increase their intrinsic value. These stones are very fashionable just at present set in the form of collar and girdle. The turquoise has been more universally adopted in recent years than any other stone. The greatest number and some of the most beautiful have of late years been found in our own country. During the last three years \$400,000 worth of American turquoise have been used. And the opal—that exquisite stone with its fairy light dancing over its delicate surface—just now it is finding its reward after many years of prejudice. Indeed, so far has the old superstition regarding this stone been removed that it has become, when set in diamonds, one of the chosen stones for the engagement ring, and the woman who can claim among her associates the most beautiful opal is to be envied, not pitied. —Jewelers' Circular.

Who Owned the Bird?

A hawk captured and killed a carrier pigeon in Druid Hill park a few days ago after a protracted chase. The chase was witnessed by a number of persons. The lightninglike movements of the pursuer and pursued were a revelation to those who were not versed in the flights of birds. The pigeon, as long as it kept in a straight line, beat the hawk flying, but on becoming frightened and confused it began a zigzag course and was then an easy prey. Captain Cassell frightened the hawk so that he got the pigeon, but the pigeon was dead when it struck the ground. On one of its legs was a metal band bearing the capital letters A. S. H. C., the large figures 297 and the small figures 88. —Baltimore Sun.

How He Was.

X. is a malade imaginaire whose chief hobby it is to get a doctor to visit him every day. A friend called to see him one morning. "Well, how are you today?"

"I don't know—the doctor hasn't been here yet!" —Grillon.

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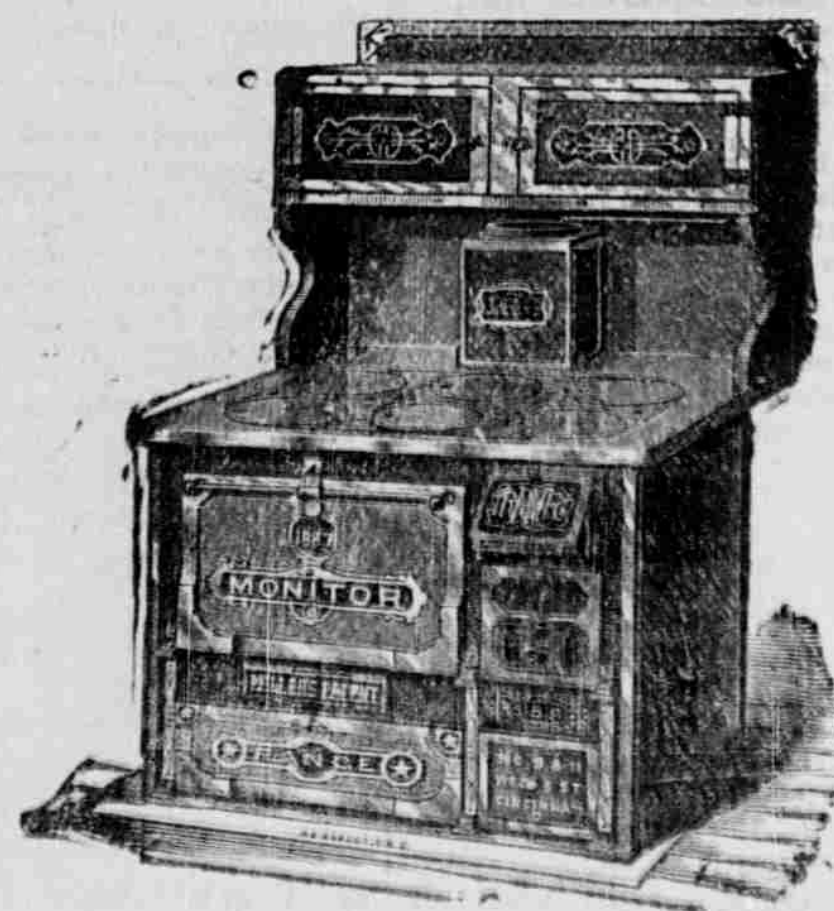
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